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### **REMARKS**

In response to the final Office Action mailed November 19, 2003, Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination. This Preliminary Amendment accompanies Applicants' request. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 21, and added new claims 29-32. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and the claims are fully supported by the specification.

In the Action mailed on November 19, 2003, the Examiner objected to Claims 1-13, 17-18 and 21-24 because "some letters are not legible." Since all of the claims are reproduced in this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

In the Action, the Examiner further objected to claim 1 because, "it appears that 'as' should be -at-." In view of Applicants' amendment of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection to claim 1 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments presented above, Applicants submit that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections in the Action mailed on November 19, 2003 are moot, none of the claims pending in the application are indefinite or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103, and all of the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections should be withdrawn.

It is to be understood that Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe all the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of an adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

3/17/04

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